

(9i) **Mr A Baxter**

**To the Leader of the Council**

**“What discussions did the Council have with high street retailers and other business organisations before the re-introduction of charges in council-owned car parks? Please publish the economic assessment the Council undertook on the likely impact on our high streets as they begin the current recovery phase following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions”.**

The Council has been involved in many meetings over the last few months with local Chambers of Commerce, Business Improvement Districts and other business groups right across the area seeking to support economic recovery.

We are working tirelessly to support the strong message that town centres are open again to rebuild confidence of consumers in returning to the shops and other premises. Effective traffic and parking management is an important part of that work, to ensure effective use of the spaces within our city and town centres. Members are also aware of the importance of parking income to the Council, which in part helps to fund the ongoing maintenance and management of these essential facilities, as well as funding our enforcement service. At the Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June Members agreed to approve the resumption of Council approved policies and services to preCovid arrangements, in line with Government guidelines and Public Health advice – car parking arrangements are an integral part of this.